

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending.

Claims 1-17 are rejected.

**Non-Compliant Amendment**

A non-compliant amendment was submitted on September 15, 2006. The Examiner notified the Applicants on October 4, 2006 that the amendment was noncompliant. The Examiner also noted that the amendments would not be entered because they raise new issues. Thus the Applicants enclose a set of compliant amended claims to take the place of the previously submitted non-compliant claims.

**Request For Continued Examination**

The Applicants request that the Examiner consider the argumentation presented on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in light of the now compliant amendment.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-17 is respectfully solicited in light of the remarks of September 15, 2006 and amendments *supra*.

Since there are no other grounds of objection or rejection, passage of this application to issue with claims 1-17 is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: RCE and petition for one month extension of time.